

From: [Stephen Artis](#)
To: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#)
Cc: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Westwood
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 1:35:21 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from artisstephen@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

My name is Stephen Artis. While I'm not a current resident of the Westwood neighborhood, I grew up in the neighborhood church, Westwood Baptist Church, and was raised by the families of the community. They are all part of the fabric of my childhood and have made me leader that I am today.

I ask that the City work directly with the residents of Westwood ensuring an overlay to persevere the community.

Thank you in advance for your attention.

Dr. Stephen L. Artis

Sent from my iPhone
Please excuse any typos

From: [Anna Mooney](#)
To: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Jones, Nicole - City Council Office](#); [Gibson, Kenya J. - City Council](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#)
Cc: [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment Regarding RES. 2026-R024 – Historic Westwood Neighborhood Plan
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 7:38:17 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from anna.mooneymba@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Members of Richmond City Council,

I am a homeowner in the Westwood neighborhood for 20 years, and I am writing regarding Resolution 2026-R024.

I want to begin by saying that I respect and value Westwood's history and its significance as a community founded by formerly enslaved African Americans. I support efforts to recognize and preserve that history.

My concern is not about whether Westwood's history matters. My concern is making sure the planning process truly represents the full range of voices of the people who live here today.

The resolution refers to a "community-driven" process and a "community's vision." I respectfully ask how the City will ensure that this vision reflects more than the views of the most organized or most frequently heard participants. A neighborhood contains many perspectives on preservation, development, housing, and the future. All of those voices should have a meaningful opportunity to participate.

I ask the City to consider the following questions:

- How will all residents and property owners be notified about this process?
- Will outreach go beyond existing neighborhood organizations and mailing lists?
- How will the City ensure that homeowners, renters, and residents with different viewpoints are represented?
- If an advisory group is created, how will members be selected?
- Will residents have the opportunity to review and comment on recommendations before they are finalized?

- Can you please confirm how residents will be notified and included in the Westwood planning process if RES. 2026-R024 passes?

I am also concerned about the discussion of potential zoning tools, design guidelines, overlay

districts, and historic preservation options. I believe it is important to recognize that age alone does not determine historic significance. Some older homes may have important cultural or architectural value, while others may have significant structural or functional challenges. Any preservation recommendations should consider individual properties and the realities faced by current homeowners.

I support thoughtful planning that honors Westwood's past while also considering the needs and perspectives of the people who live here now. I ask that the City create a transparent and inclusive process so that future recommendations truly represent the entire community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Anna Mooney
Westwood Homeowner

From: [Alex Sklut](#)
To: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Westwood Resolution Support
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 7:37:17 AM

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My name is Alex Sklut, and I own a home in Westwood.

I currently work multiple jobs, have a renter who lives with me, and have tried to support the community since I moved here.

I appreciate the historic significance of the neighborhood and the deep meaning it has for residents. I respect the fact that today it exists thanks to their efforts.

I also believe this remains some of the most affordable housing in the first district.

Our roads are tight and cannot be widened without removing our small yards. We do not have many trees and need the ones we have.

Our infrastructure has been neglected and while I support affordable housing and would like to see our community grow, I don't see how that can happen right now and not hurt current residents without serious intention and careful planning. Plumbing, gas, and other infrastructure seem to struggle with the level of housing present in the neighborhood as it is now.

The recent ADUs that have been built are out of scale and have been damaging to direct neighbors, their sense of peace, and their homes.

I know and care about my neighbors and would like to live here for the rest of my life. I would like for them to be able to live here too.

I ask the City to please vote in support of this resolution and work with residents on an overlay to preserve the neighborhood. Thank you for serving the people of Richmond.

Sincerely,

Alex Sklut
alexsklut@gmail.com

From: [Amy Atticks](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#)
Cc: [Jeanette Brown](#)
Subject: Letter in Support of Resolution 2026-R024
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 2:31:35 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from amyatticksrva@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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July 15, 2026

Good afternoon,

I am a homeowner in Historic Westwood writing in support of Resolution 2026-R024.

While small in scale and modest in form, [Westwood](#) remains a largely intact, historically significant neighborhood with narrow country lanes and a serene, village-like atmosphere.

Westwood is home to residents of many backgrounds and perspectives, and includes a unique enclave of single-family residences owned by generations of African Americans. It is also a treasured gathering place for a broader community of Virginians, including descendants of the original feedmen who founded the neighborhood and Westwood Baptist Church, and those who fought for the neighborhood's continued existence over the last 154 years.

In recent years, the neighborhood has received increasing recognition, and, in May 2026, Westwood was named to Preservation Virginia's list of Most Endangered Places. CEO of Historic Richmond, Cyane Crump, has said, "The church and the neighborhood homes represent a physical storyline of community success, neighborhood resilience, and African American middle class home ownership from Emancipation to Reconstruction to Jim Crow through the Civil Rights Movement."

Since 1942, the neighborhood has faced ceaseless pressure from those who value Westwood for what they think it could be, rather than what it is. Many residents are weary of persistent speculation and insensitive development by nonresidents. A good number dread further erosion, erasure, and displacement, and fear that upzoning will accelerate these threats. I am among them.

This Resolution is an invitation for the City to partner with Westwood to identify ways to honor the historic community, celebrate their incredible legacy, and preserve Westwood's

irreplaceable sense of place – while allowing for growth and innovation that support the flourishing of our current and future residents.

It is an opportunity for the City to demonstrate leadership and show that today, Richmond values and seeks to be inclusive of neighborhoods and communities like Westwood.

Thank you, Councilmember Breton, for putting forth this resolution, and thanks to all for your consideration.

With gratitude,

Amy Atticks

From: [Lauren Shaulis](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Westwood Neighborhood
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 1:56:31 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from laurenbrooks88@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello, My family and I have lived in Historic Westwood for over eleven years. We have been very concerned about the changes, specifically those from Code Refresh and the negative impact they will have on our neighborhood. We have already experienced some negative impacts and we are hopeful that an overlay would protect our homes, our trees, our park/playground while also offering opportunities for upkeep and maintenance of our neighborhood.

I ask the City to please vote in support of this resolution and work with residents on an overlay to preserve the neighborhood. Thank you for serving the people of Richmond.

Sincerely, The Shaulis Family
Lauren, Brad, Hazel, Harrison and Harper

From: revjlb@icloud.com
To: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); Mayor@rva.gov; [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: troseghws@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: Support the Resolution For Historic Westwood
Date: Friday, July 17, 2026 3:50:57 PM
Attachments: [Video.mov](#)

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Greetings! I would like to express my gratitude for this opportunity to speak in favor of the proposed resolution for my beloved Historic Westwood.

My family has been a part of Westwood since 1969, when my mother, a single parent raising four children, purchased her first home. She worked two or even three jobs to save for the modest \$500 down payment.

Growing up in Westwood has been one of the most significant and influential experiences of my life.

I was baptized at Westwood Baptist Church at the age of 11, married at 25, and renewed my wedding vows for our 25th anniversary.

Westwood taught us not only the values of

living in community/village but also instilled in us the belief that we could achieve greatness, regardless of societal expectations. The church and the playground were our lifeline, providing us with countless opportunities for cultural and spiritual growth.

Westwood instilled in us the values of love for God, ourselves, and our neighbors. These childhood relationships have endured and continue to strengthen even after many of us have moved to different parts of the country. We have maintained traditions we experienced growing up, such as Homecoming, the Palm Sunday Palm March, and other cherished events.

I attribute my remarkable career of nearly 35 years, including the last 20 years where I was honored to be selected into the distinguished Senior Selective Service by President Clinton, to the influence of God, family and my beloved Westwood, Church and Community.

Our theme song, “There’s No Place Like

Westwood,” resonates with us every Sunday morning, and it is true, despite the challenges we have faced from the City of Richmond.

I am deeply saddened by the current proposed zoning changes with Code Refresh. Westwood has fought tirelessly since its inception, and while we were asked to trust the city, we have continually lost portions of our beloved community. The boundaries of our neighborhood have been encroached upon, development of the Westhampton Professional Park have left only three original homes standing. The West End Library was not supposed to happen. The bank now office space on the corner of Patterson and Dunbar was not supposed to happen. The medical office that occupies Snowden Lane was not supposed to happen. Easement land in the back of Stokes Lane was sold off to the Weinstein Jewish Center without notification or consideration to Historic Westwood residents. We have systematically been redlined, gentrified and not looked upon favorably by City Officials. Our infrastructure has always been substandard

when compared to neighboring communities surrounding Historic Westwood. Now Code Refresh... this will be the dagger for our beloved Westwood. At least 15 developers are in Westwood already. The City's 2023 policy on Additional Dwelling Units (ADUs) also adversely impacts the neighborhood, changing our footprint and beautiful landscape forever. Residents are already incurring additional cost as the water system/pipeline is not equipped to handle the additional pull on the system... backups are happening, water pressure is low all at the expense of current Westwood residents.

The proposed resolution by First District Councilman Andrew Brenton is a good step in the right direction to address these issues and began to right the wrongs inflicted on our beloved community since 1942.

Historic Westwood was listed to Virginia's 2026 List of Endangered Historic Places in May due to the numerous wrongs imposed on it over the decades and being over developed. We look forward to working with the City and others

together in developing and implementing a modified design overlay that will help us save Historic Westwood from being extinct.

As of this date, Code Refresh is not aligned with Richmond 300. Additionally, The Master Plan adopted into law on December 24, 2020, stated that “A new Zoning Ordinance should include measures to preserve the authentic character of Richmond's older neighborhoods”; and Code Refresh, Draft 2’s “General Provisions,” in accordance with the mandate to be compatible with the Master Plan, states the intent to C) “ Guide reinvestments in established neighborhoods that helps reinforce their unique characteristics,” e) “Protect against destruction of or encroachment upon historic areas, “and f) “Protect against one of more of the following:

undue density of population...danger and congestion in travel and transportation;” and Code Refresh, Draft 2’s “Overlay Districts” set forth criteria for the establishment of additional old and historic districts, including one or more of the following: a) it has significant character, interest or value as part of the historic development of the City; b) it is the site of a historic event which had a significant impact on the history of the City; and c) it exemplifies the architectural, cultural, economic, social, political, artistic or religious history of the City”

Clearly Historic Westwood falls in several if not all of these categories. It’s time for the City of Richmond to do the right thing: “SAVE

HISTORIC WESTWOOD”!!! If you have not been to Historic Westwood, I invite you to come visit and see for yourselves this unique, beautiful and wonderful place.

**Humbly Submitted,
Reverend Jeanette Littleton Brown, President
Westwood Civic League
Associate Minister, Westwood Baptist Church**



























Sent from my iPhone

From: [Svcourtreporter](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: URGENT PUBLIC COMMENT: July 21 Land Use Committee-Support Resolution 2026-R024
Date: Saturday, July 18, 2026 4:27:11 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from svcourtreporter@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Clerk and Members of the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee, I am writing to formally request that this correspondence be entered into the public record for the upcoming Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 21st 3pm, I am a Richmond resident, and I strongly urge the committee to SUPPORT Resolution No. 2026-R024. I am also adding my voice to support my neighbors in opposing the current iteration of the Zoning Code Refresh ("Draft Three"). The city's own RKG economic feasibility data demonstrates that the proposed by right allowances function as a high profit giveaway to developers, stripping neighborhoods of their oversight and straining our infrastructure. Please protect our neighborhoods from these by right developer loopholes. We are watching the July 21st docket closely and ask for your support. Thank you,
Sally Valentine
The Fan
Letter from neighbor Alan Peart:

Director Vonck,

This correspondence serves as formal administrative notice that the data and zoning parameters currently being advanced by the Zoning Advisory Council (ZAC) regarding the Code Refresh Draft Three maps are procedurally compromised.

As of this morning, formal, FOIA-tracked correspondence has been delivered to the administrative hub of the ZAC, explicitly detailing the unmonitored financial pipeline driving the proposed MX-3 upzoning in the East End. Specifically, the ZAC has been provided

with the cadastral footprints connecting the community-facing entity UP RVA to the commercial real estate acquisitions of Church Hill North Holdings.

The ZAC is currently advancing a by-right, high-density commercial zoning framework that maximizes Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for these specific holding companies without requiring any mandatory Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) or resident oversight.

As the Director of Planning and Development Review, you are ultimately responsible for the integrity of the Staff Reports submitted to the Planning Commission. If your department submits a report endorsing the current Draft Three maps for the July 21st public hearing, you are now doing so with documented, advanced knowledge that the advisory data is actively facilitating corporate land-banking under the guise of equity.

From: [Tahayya Ansari](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 8:27:43 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tahayya@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members, I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Resident RVA](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Mayor Danny Avula](#); [Richmond300](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#)
Subject: in support of Resolution 2026-R024 for Westwood
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 9:56:04 AM

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To whom it may concern:

If you spend any time with members of the [Historic Westwood](#) community, you will hear how many have been devastated, personally, and over the generations, by the destruction of many Black neighborhoods throughout our own City of Richmond.

You will also hear how the neighborhood of Westwood serves as hallowed ground. Generations have fought hard to establish, build, and protect Westwood and still do, to this day.

As these Richmonders know-- and have witnessed over the generations, destruction always arrives with good reasons, making room for new and better ideas, allowing good people to believe they are doing the right thing and supporting progress. This time, the reason is in the name "affordable housing". But, as currently proposed, there's no guarantee Code Refresh will create affordable housing in Westwood and bring much-needed progress.

We all can agree that more "affordable housing" for more people is needed throughout the city. Yet we also can agree that turning Apostletown into Gilpin Court is not the kind of progress we aspire to today. Allowing market forces and new zoning to turn Westwood into a neighborhood its residents cannot recognize, afford, or tolerate, due to insensitive overdevelopment, is not progress either.

Please give Westwood residents a chance to have a say in their neighborhood's future. This resolution, proposed by Council Member Andrew Breton, is a positive step in that direction.

Sincerely,
EP Wright

From: [Hunter Gish](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 10:27:51 AM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members,
I am a lifelong Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood / Ginter Park neighborhoods. Furthermore, I ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE THE BY-RIGHT DENSITY LOOPHOLES currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes financially incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting. Thank you.
Sincerely,
Hunter Gish
3615 Seminary Avenue

From: [Sarah Driggs](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Resolution 2026-R024
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 10:49:08 PM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members, I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Sarah Driggs

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Anna Bell](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 9:25:43 PM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members,

WE submit the following position.

As concerned Richmond area residents, we are in support of Resolution 2026-R024 and implore community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood.

It is not only based on our conviction that this is the right thing to do, but on first-hand experience.

Our mother's affordable house in a neighborhood by Willow Lawn sold for \$205,000, June 2017. A builder bought, tore it down, and built a home which sold for \$750,000, January 2019. As of the 2025 assessment, it is now assessed at \$947,000.

Result: one less affordable house in the city which DID NOT add density nor add an affordable home to the housing market. We do not wish Westwood to fall into land use that takes affordable housing away.

Furthermore, we strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns.

Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Anna and Michael Bell
1824 W. Grace Street, 23220

From: [Joan Sties](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Subject: Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 8:53:11 PM

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Subject: Resolution 2026-R024 - Oppose Draft Three Teardowns Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members, I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Thank you,
Joan Sties

From: [Tricia Bryant](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT resolution 2026/R024/OPPOSE draft 3 tear downs
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 6:42:37 PM

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"Dear City Clerk and Land Use
Committee Members,

I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns.

Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00
PM Land Use, Housing and
Transportation Standing Committee

Tricia Bryant
Sent from my iPhone

From: [JOY ANNE DANIEL](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Oppose the new zoning..
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 6:41:59 PM

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I oppose the zoning that tears down small houses so developers can build bigger ones.

From: [Amybeth M](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Zoning vote
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 6:31:47 PM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members, I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting."

From: [Franco](#) on behalf of [Franco Salvatore](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 6:20:28 PM

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"Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members,

I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns.

Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting."

Franco Salvatore

Sent from my iPad

From: [mindy](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support resolution 2026-RO 24 oppose draft 3 teardowns
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 5:21:16 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mindythule123@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members, I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. I am appalled that Draft 3 gives density loopholes that will destroy existing affordable housing-surely not what our city needs. Therefore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Sincerely,
Mindy B. Loiselle
Lanny R. Levson
2215 Grove Ave
Richmond va, 23220

From: [Copeland Casati](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 12:48:05 PM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members, I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh.

The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns.

Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Copeland Casati
President

Green Modern Kits / Green Cottage Kits / Green Cabin Kits
804.515.7886

From: [Susan Jones](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 12:32:03 PM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members, I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Sincerely,
Susan Williams Jones
6100 Howard Road
Richmond, VA 23226

From: [Jessica Pi](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 11:38:05 AM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members,
I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Jessica Pi
Richmond City Resident
1711 Rawlings St
Richmond VA 23231
Sent from my iPhone



SUFFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the School Board Attorney
100 North Main Street
P.O. Box 1549
Suffolk, VA 23439-1549



Wendell M. Waller, Esquire
School Board Attorney

(757) 925-6752
Fax: (757) 925-2421

July 20, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

To the Honorable President, Vice-President and
Council Members for the City of Richmond
900 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Westwood Community & Code Refresh

Greetings Council President Newbille, Vice-President Jordan, and Council Members
Breton, Gibson, Abubaker, Lynch, Robertson, Trammell and Jones;

I am writing this letter in support of the Westwood Community — a predominantly African-American Community near Willow Lawn. The Westwood Community has a rightful place in the history of the City of Richmond. Six years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, formerly enslaved African Americans settled in the rural, wooded west end of Henrico — formerly known as the Westwood Village.

In 1942, Westwood was annexed by the City of Richmond from the County of Henrico. And following its annexation, the City of Richmond sought to raze the community to build a park, and tried to force residents out of their homes by denying them access to water and other utilities. The Ku Klux Klan even tried to scare residents away. But residents remained resilient and steadfast. The people of Westwood protected each other and in 1947 Richmond abandoned the park plan and provided Westwood with utilities.

Now, the Westwood Community is once again facing annihilation. The City's rezoning plan, which is called Code Refresh, will result in many of Westwood's single-family lots being rezoned as RD-B. Developers will then be allowed to convert a single-family home into a duplex and build a new Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) up to 1,200 sq. ft. — which will be as large as many of Westwood's historic homes — in the backyard if the total buildings cover less than 40% of the lot and a 5-foot side/rear setback is maintained. Lots 100 feet wide facing roads may be subdivided into two lots. Patterson will be designated for mixed-use (MX-3), including the 3 historic homes. The Historic Church and single-family lots surrounding the Church will be zoned RM-A, which will allow multifamily housing with up to 6 units and small-scale commercial use. New developments will not require infrastructure upgrades or parking and developers will not be required to give any notice to or have any engagement with the neighborhood. Westwood, which is known for its single-family dwelling will be no more.

However, the Westwood Community is more than single family-homes, it is the “village” where young people developed character, leadership qualities, and resilience. Summers were spent playing at the Westwood playground and Sunday morning worship services and community meetings were held at the Westwood Church. And this is something I know quite well because I am a product of the Westwood Community. My family moved to Westwood when I was young. I attended Westwood Baptist Church, was ordained as a Baptist Minister, went on to attend law school and became a member of the Virginia State Bar. I have been practicing law for over forty-one (41) years.

Currently, I pastor a local church and serve as legal counsel for the Suffolk City School Board — both positions I have held for the past thirty-eight (38) years. And it was my connection to the Westwood Community that laid the foundation for me to become the person I am today. But not only me, but countless others whose young lives were touched and shaped by the Westwood experience. Today, my mother and other relatives still own homes and live in the Westwood Community.

Council Member Andrew Breton will be presenting a resolution that calls on the city to invest staff resources into a community-driven engagement process to define a neighborhood plan that will lay out historical preservation tools, neighborhood investment plans, and anti-displacement measures that will focus on the needs of Westwood, informed by the residents and historic families that built the community.

It is my fervent prayer that the city will not turn its back on Westwood — as it once did — but this time will stand with Westwood and preserve an important chapter in the history of the City of Richmond, ensure that the “village” remains intact, and prevent the encroachment of developers, who will forever change the character of the village. WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

Sincerely,



Wendell M. Waller, Esquire
School Board Attorney

xc: The Reverend Jeanette Littleton Brown
Ms. Tammy Fields Rose

From: [Ellen Betzhold](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Vonck, Kevin J. - PDR](#); [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); [Mayor Danny Avula](#); [Phillip.Hart@Richmondgov.com](#)
Subject: Support Resolution 2026-RO24/Oppose Draft Three TeardownsI
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 9:52:15 AM

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I STRONGLY oppose the by-right density LOOPHOLES currently proposed in Draft 3 of Code Refresh.

The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns.

**Ellen Betzhold
4100 Stuart Avenue
23221**

From: stacyluks@comcast.net
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 10:38:14 AM
Importance: High

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members:

I am a Richmond / Fan area resident and homeowner, and 24-year resident of the city. I am gravely concerned about the Code Refresh process that is being steamrolled over the heightening concerns of Richmond City taxpayers and citizens.

Today I am writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024, and demand community-driven planning for the historic Westwood neighborhood.

Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns, and preserve the historic character of these precious, irreplaceable neighborhoods that are what have made Richmond what it is, and what attracts people to our city in the first place.

Thank you for your recording my stance in the record.

STACY LUKS

stacyluks@comcast.net

t. 703.405.3763

Be well. Do good work. And keep in touch.

From: [Hannah Steineke](#)
To: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); Mayor@rva.gov; [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support for the Historic Westwood Resolution
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 10:48:12 AM

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Dear Mayor Avula, Councilmember Breton, and Members of City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the resolution regarding Historic Westwood that will be considered at the upcoming City Council meetings.

Although I am a relatively new resident, having lived in my home for the past five years on Marion Street, I was welcomed into the Westwood community from the very beginning. Over the years, I have experienced firsthand what makes this neighborhood so special. Neighbors genuinely look out for one another, support one another, and take pride in caring for this community. That sense of belonging is something I value deeply.

I also want to acknowledge Westwood's history. As a white resident living in a neighborhood founded by formerly enslaved people, I feel a responsibility to listen to and support the direction of the Westwood Civic Association as it advocates for preserving the neighborhood's history and character. While I recognize there are differing opinions within the community, I believe it is important to respect and elevate the voices of those who have long worked to steward Westwood's legacy.

As I understand it, this resolution does not create any immediate or binding restrictions. Rather, it simply allows the City to allocate resources to work with residents, consider preservation options, gather community input, and develop a report. That collaborative process is both reasonable and worthwhile.

I respectfully ask that you vote in support of the resolution and continue engaging with Westwood residents throughout this process. Thank you for your service to the City of Richmond and for considering the perspectives of those who care deeply about preserving this unique and historic neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Hannah Steineke

From: [Lamar](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Historic Westwood
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 11:31:56 AM

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Good morning,

My name is Lamar Brown Sr.

I own property in Historic Westwood. I ask the City to please vote for the Resolution asking the City to work with Westwood.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Lamar Brown Sr.

From: [Jessica G](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 11:35:17 AM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members,
I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Regards,
Jessica Godfrey
1609 Wilmington Ave, Richmond, VA 23227

From: [Ellen Ball](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 1:17:08 PM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members, I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Thank you,
Ellen Ball

From: [S Norwood Thornton](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Historic Westwood Community
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 2:18:30 PM

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To:
City Clerk,
Land Use Committee Members,
Honorable President,
Vice-President, and
Council Members for the City of Richmond

I write today on behalf of family members who helped shape Historic Westwood but are no longer here to raise their voices.

I write for my cousin, Frances Warden Lambert, Virginia's 1974 Mother of the Year, her son, Virginia State Senator Benjamin Lambert III, my aunt, Elizabeth B. Cooper, the proud mother of Daisy Jane Cooper, the courageous African American student who integrated Richmond Public Schools after a lengthy court battle; and my great-grandfather's family, whose enduring legacy is reflected in "Parrish Street", named for our family, where two of our family's historic homes still stand today.

My name is S. Norwood Thornton. Although my career has taken me across the country as a marketing professional and corporate magician representing several Fortune 500 companies, my roots remain firmly planted in Historic Westwood. I was born and raised in this remarkable community and was the first person baptized in the new sanctuary of Westwood Baptist Church by the Rev. Dr. Dwight C. Jones, who would later become Mayor of Richmond.

Westwood has overcome tremendous challenges throughout its history. Our community fought for basic necessities such as public water, resisted efforts to transform our neighborhood into a city park, and endured the painful divisions that surrounded Daisy Jane Cooper's integration of Westhampton Junior High School. Through every challenge, Westwood persevered because its residents believed our neighborhood was worth protecting.

Today, I respectfully ask the City to support the resolution introduced by Councilman Andrew "Gumby" Breton and members of our community to launch a six-month study of Historic Westwood. If approved, this study will lead to recommendations for a neighborhood overlay that will help preserve the unique character, rich history, and identity that have made Westwood one of Richmond's hidden jewels for generations.

This resolution is not simply about protecting buildings. It is about preserving the stories, sacrifices, and legacy of the families who built this community and ensuring that future generations inherit a neighborhood whose history is honored rather than forgotten.

S. Norwood Thornton

From: [Yevonne Chandler](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 2:29:23 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from yevonne.chandler@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members,
My name is Yevonne Chandler and I am a Richmond city resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood.

Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. I have seen this happen in my own neighborhood (district 1), as older houses or small apartment buildings are torn down and replaced by luxury townhomes or apartments.

As a tax-paying citizen, I demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and tear-downs and preserve the historic nature of our city.

Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting."

Sincerely,
Yevonne Chandler

From: [E.G](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Andrew Breton Resolution for Westwood neighborhood
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 3:43:43 PM

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Hello,

My name is Emily. While I'm not a current resident of the Westwood neighborhood, I grew up in a neighborhood very nearby. Westwood a very special community that demonstrates the community values that other neighborhoods and cities aspire to practice: Neighbors looking after each other, welcoming everyone, and preserving peace and safety. The history of this neighborhood is absolutely worth protecting and celebrating.

I ask that the City work directly with the residents of Westwood ensuring an overlay to persevere the community.

Thank you in advance for your attention.

--

Emily Grimes

From: [novasphere.outreach](mailto:novasphere.outreach@proton.me)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Jordan, Katherine - City Council](#); [Gibson, Kenya J. - City Council](#); [Abubaker, Sarah M. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Nicole - City Council Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three (Richmond 300 Violations)
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 3:52:33 PM

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Dear City Clerk and Members of the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee,

I am writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 on tomorrow's docket and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh.

Planning Director Kevin Vonck has publicly stated that Draft Three simply implements the Richmond 300 Master Plan, and therefore no new infrastructure capacity study is needed. This is factually false and legally reckless.

Chapter 7 of Richmond 300 dictates that a zoning rewrite must "maintain existing neighborhoods," and Objective 4.1 explicitly demands zoning that "supports, protects, and enhances neighborhood character" while "reducing demolition." The city's own RKG economic study confirms that Draft Three's by-right duplex loopholes will financially incentivize out-of-state developers to bulldoze our existing starter homes. You cannot vote for Draft Three without directly violating the preservation mandates of your own Master Plan.

Because Draft Three violates Richmond 300, the city has no legal excuse to force unchecked density onto a failing utility system that regularly dumps raw sewage into the James River during heavy storms. The only recent studies conducted on our utility systems (2024 and 2025) were reactive, state-mandated emergency assessments to fix a water plant that failed and sewer systems that are actively overflowing. You cannot mandate maximum density on failing pipes.

I demand the Land Use Committee support Resolution 2026-R024 and strike the by-right teardown loopholes from Draft Three.

Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM meeting.

Respectfully

Alan Peart
Swansboro

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS.

To the Mayor, City Clerk, City Council and Land Use, Housing & Transportation Committee:

RE: Support for Resolution 2026-R024

I am writing to voice my support for the Historic Westwood Community's Resolution, put forth by our City Councilperson, Andrew "Gumby" Breton with the collaboration/partnership of the Westwood Civic League and its residents desire for a Modified Design Overlay for our community.

My name is Tammy Rose, a long-time resident of this beloved and historic community, nestled in the First District of the City of Richmond.

My family moved in this neighborhood when I was three years old and for the majority of my life, I have been a resident of this great community. I returned to my community when I was going through my divorce, because I wanted my children to know what it feels like to live in a community that loves children, value family, stability, resilience and honors the "village" that made this neighborhood so special and unique. They could also attend a church that taught us how to be respectful and be a guiding light to the community (no matter where you may land). We knew what it meant to give back; to love your neighbor as yourself; to do to others what you want to have them do unto you.

My children played at the playground that was a big part of my growing up, went to the same church where we went to Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and attended various Christian conference that helped with our understanding and love of church, God and Jesus Christ. We learned about the history of our community and those that made a difference in our community, city, state and nationally. We learned how our residents protected this neighborhood against the Ku Klux Klan, and while we think that those happened long ago, during my early childhood, we had to endure racism along the shops that lined Patterson Avenue, no matter how subtle it was. We have always had to endure some act of resistance from our external community. When we were purchased (annexed) from Henrico County, we had to endure the personal attacks about how we lived, how we didn't deserve to be here, how people would have rather seen a dog park verses people who worked hard, built homes, stores, a church, their very own school (Westwood School) and farmers who tilled the land. Despite all of this, we prevailed, were persistent, resilient and created a living legacy for all of us who reside and/or resided in this community. We stood and continue to stand strong against those who would rather remove us from a community we built and continue to sustain today.

Code Refresh as it stands right now, isn't going to help this neighborhood. It is clear, it will definitely destroy the last of what is left of our heritage and our ancestors' legacy. We've been told over and over again by the City of Richmond that they would not encroach upon our neighborhood and at every turn, we have been disappointed by the blatant disregard to promises never kept. From fighting to keep our playground due to it being placed on the City's Abandonment List, to watching the easement between the back of the Jewish Community Center on Monument Avenue (Henrico County) encroach upon the easement on the Richmond

City side (the backyards of those living on Stokes Lane (on the even side of the streets) and one home on Glenburnie Road. Code Refresh has suggested that churches be considered and labeled as Mixed Use. Our church and the cemetery behind it would be changed from Residential to Mixed Use. By doing that, it would potentially, be easier for a corporation or large business or company to come in and put up housing (ie – apartments, townhomes, condo's, etc.) and also give the Jewish Community Center (which owns one of the lots on Stokes Lane) to change from residential to mixed-use to invade and crush the look of our neighborhood.

Code Refresh refuses to follow the 300 Master Plan regarding the preservation of historical neighborhoods. If you looked at the wording in the 300 Master Plan, we wouldn't be having this conversation, because our neighborhood would be safe from the destruction of Code Refresh. We are historic, we are unique and we are definitely a community that has produced representatives from this small nine street community of the First District in the City of Richmond, the State of Virginia, the entire United States of America and the World (globally).

You must vote to let our voices be heard loud and clear and the developers should not reap any benefits until we sit at the table of compromise. We are clearly a neighborhood, that is being swallowed up by developers, it is up to the City of Richmond to make sure this doesn't happen. We need a "small area study," a "traffic study," an air quality/environmental study," and a "tree canopy study" done as soon as possible.

The city has taken away the ability of residents to complain through the Special Use Permits (SUP's), which has given way to developers like CAVA to come and throw up two ADU's that are too close to one another, the main structures and to the neighboring back yards. You took away the voices of the residents for the sack of rebates and profits. Parking restrictions are also something that the City has to look at as well. With you removing the limitations on parking, you've made it impossible for a neighborhood with no sidewalks (except for a portion on Stokes Lane) or alleys, to have ample parking for the barrage of homes and residents moving in with the units and ADU's that can be potentially built on a lot. Nor have we discussed the potential overcrowding of Mary Munford Elementary, Albert Hill Middle, and Thomas Jefferson High Schools. How school buses already have trouble managing the drive through our narrow streets, and a lot of times, turning into resident's yards to clear cars that are on the streets.

I'm against Code Refresh as it stands now. I support the Resolution 2026-R024 and I hope that you will vote for the Resolution and work with our community to make our desire for a Modified Overlay Design a reality.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rose
VP Westwood Civic League
VP Friends of Westwood Playground

From: [Kim Ridley](#)
To: [Mayor Danny Avula](#)
Cc: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Supporting the Councilman Brenton's Resolution
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 5:16:03 PM

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Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I am writing in strong support of Councilmember Brenton's resolution to halt the proposed mixed-use zoning efforts affecting the Westwood community.

I write not only as a concerned resident, but as a fifth-generation member of the Westwood community and of Westwood Baptist Church. My family's roots here span generations. This neighborhood is more than a place on a map, it is the product of sacrifice, resilience, faith, and an enduring commitment to community.

For generations, my family has fought to preserve the dignity and value of the people who call Westwood home. My father, grandmother, great-grandfather, and those who came before them worked tirelessly to ensure that this historically Black community received the basic rights and resources that others often took for granted, from access to water and sewer services to the simple recognition that our neighborhood deserved the same care, investment, and respect as any other.

Today, we find ourselves confronting a familiar struggle.

The steady encroachment of commercial development and poorly planned housing along the borders of Westwood continues to erode the character of our community and raises a difficult question: Whose interests are being prioritized? Too often, development appears to value the economic potential of the land more than the people whose lives, histories, and relationships have shaped it for generations.

I respectfully ask you to pause these zoning efforts and carefully consider their long-term impact on the families who have built and sustained this community. Decisions about development should not be made solely through the lens of economic opportunity. They must also reflect a commitment to equity, historical preservation, and the well-being of the people who will bear the consequences of those decisions.

Progress should never require the displacement, marginalization, or gradual erosion of communities that have already endured generations of inequity. Westwood deserves thoughtful planning that honors its history, protects its residents, and includes the voices of those who know and love this neighborhood.

I urge you to support Councilmember Brenton's resolution and to choose a path that places

people before profit and community before convenience.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim Ridley

Kimberly T. Ridley, Ph.D.
Head of School
Fayerweather Street School
765 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

KRidley@fayerweather.org

1-617-876-4746

Pronouns: she, her, hers



#BeTheSunshine

From: [Cyane Crump](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support for Resolution 2026-R024 and the Westwood neighborhood
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 4:58:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Dear Members of City Council –

Historic Richmond is writing to express our support for the historic Westwood neighborhood and Resolution 2026-R024.

Westwood is historically significant as a surviving example of an African American neighborhood that dates to the Reconstruction Era. The period of significance begins with the founding of Westwood Baptist Church by 1874, and continues through the 1971 expansion of the church. Overall, the variety of architecture - from earlier periods into the building out of the neighborhood - represents a solid snapshot of the historic evolution of the Westwood community. The church and neighborhood homes represent a physical storyline of community resilience, neighborhood success, and African American middle class home ownership from Emancipation to Reconstruction to Jim Crow through the Civil Rights Movement.

Historic Richmond worked with the neighborhood and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to see Westwood officially recognized as historic in the Virginia Landmarks Register. But this does not mean that there are any protections to help save it from encroaching development.

Over the years, the decisions of Richmond's planning authorities have adversely impacted this neighborhood in ways both intentional and unintentional. More recent planning decisions are also impacting the neighborhood. Westwood's neighborhood buildings used to line Patterson Avenue, but public developments like the U.S. Post Office and the City's West End Library, and private office and commercial developments along Patterson Avenue have eaten away at the neighborhood for decades.

While the voice of the Westwood neighborhood was ignored with these projects, we are working with the neighborhood to identify appropriate tools to encourage affordability and combat displacement.

Resolution 2026-R024 introduced by Councilman Breton would direct the Planning Department to work with the neighborhood to conduct a community-driven planning process to identify priorities for preservation, development, and neighborhood stability and evaluate and recommend appropriate land use, zoning, and policy tools to achieve these priorities, including but not limited to the establishment of a special low-density district in the Code Refresh amendments, design overlay district, Old and Historic District, or other zoning overlay.

We are appreciative of Councilman Andrew Breton's efforts and support this

resolution and ask that City Council support it too.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (804) 643-7407 or ccrump@historichrichmond.com.

Cyane



Cyane Crump
Executive Director

Historic Richmond

Building on history

4 East Main St., Suite 1C
Richmond, Virginia 23219

cellular: 804.241.9207

office tel: 804.643.7407

fax: 804.788.4244

ccrump@historichrichmond.com

HistoricRichmond.com

From: [Patricia Loyde](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 5:44:30 PM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members,

I live in the Fan and am writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood.

Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh.

The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit.

We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns.

Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Thank you,
Patricia Loyde
John Loyde
300 block N Granby St
Richmond, VA 23220

From: [Judy Dobles](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Draft Three Code Refresh Resolution 2026-R024
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 6:06:56 PM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members,
I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns. Please enter this into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Sincerely,
Judy Dobles

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Stacy Luks](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 7:15:17 PM

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Please enter the email content I sent earlier (below) into the official public record for the Tuesday, July 21st, 3:00 PM Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting

Thank you,

Best regards
Stacy

t 703.405.3763
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: stacyluks@comcast.net
Date: July 20, 2026 at 10:38:00 AM EDT
To: CityClerksOffice@rva.gov
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns

Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members:

I am a Richmond / Fan area resident and homeowner, and 24-year resident of the city.

I am gravely concerned about the Code Refresh process that is being steamrolled over the heightening concerns of Richmond City taxpayers and citizens.

Today I am writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024, and demand community-driven planning for the historic Westwood neighborhood.

Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable

housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns, and preserve the historic character of these precious, irreplaceable neighborhoods that are what have made Richmond what it is, and what attracts people to our city in the first place.

Thank you for your recording my stance in the record.

STACY LUKS

stacyluks@comcast.net

t. 703.405.3763

Be well. Do good work. And keep in touch.

From: [Susan Rebillot](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: Westwood Community/Code Refresh/Breton Resolution
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 7:23:31 PM

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Please distribute to City Council for July 27, 2026 Council meeting. Thank you.

Susan Rebillot

(727) 744-3779

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Susan Rebillot** <susanrebillot@outlook.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 20, 2026, 6:14 PM
Subject: Westwood Community/Code Refresh/Breton Resolution
To: cynthia.newbille@rvva.gov <cynthia.newbille@rvva.gov>, Jordan, Katherine - City Council <katherine.jordan@rva.gov>, Breton, Andrew S. - City Council <andrew.breton@rva.gov>, Kenya J. City Council Gibson <kenya.gibson@rva.gov>, Abubaker, Sarah M. - City Council <sarah.abubaker@rva.gov>, Stephanie A. City Council Office Lynch <stephanie.lynch@rva.gov>, ellen.robertson@rrva.gov <ellen.robertson@rrva.gov>, Trammell, Reva M. - City Council <reva.trammell@rva.gov>, nicole.jones@rva.gov <nicole.jones@rva.gov>
Cc: RVAMayor@rva.gov <RVAMayor@rva.gov>, jbrown2009@comcast.net <jbrown2009@comcast.net>

To the Honorable President, Vice President and Council Members for the City of Richmond, VA

Re: Westwood Community and Code Refresh

July 20, 2026

Dear Honorable President Newbille, Vice President Jordan, and Council members Breton, Gibson, Abubaker, Lynch, Robertson, Trammell, and Jones,

I am writing this letter in support of the Westwood Community following a chance meeting with Rev. Jeannette Brown and Tammy Rose, Historic Westwood Civic Association leaders, and then personally visiting the Historic Westwood community for the first time. I now understand the history of this predominantly African American community and the attempts by the city to annihilate it in the past. But this has been a community of connectedness and resilience with a strong sense of identification with their village and pride of place. I encourage each of you to visit this community.

The city's misguided zoning rewrite, which purports to be about equity in housing and correcting past grievances against black and brown citizens, actually is likely to repeat the past. The homes in this community are modest and sandwiched between more affluent neighborhoods, and so with new zoning codes that will allow developers to convert single family homes into a duplex plus construct an ADU of up to 1200 square feet (as large as most Westwood SFHs) thereby causing Westwood as a community where black and brown people build wealth through home ownership to disappear in favor of rental properties where developers and landlords benefit.

In addition, areas that will be rezoned MX-3 and RM-A will allow multi-family and commercial development without analyses of impacts or funded work to address infrastructure. The bottom line is that Historic Westwood residents will be displaced and a neighborhood that has provided an opportunity for black and brown citizens to have opportunity for modest home ownership and to build wealth will be destroyed. This is not how to plan equity in housing opportunities.

I am asking Council to vote to approve the Resolution by Councilor Breton that asks the city to invest PDR staff resources to engage this community in creating a community-driven zoning and land use plan that will include historic preservation tools and anti-displacement measures. This rezoning plan should be informed by the residents and families who built this vibrant, thriving community.

Sincerely,
Susan Rebillot
Third District
[1350 Westwood Avenue Unit 303](#)
[Richmond, VA 23227](#)

cc: The Rev. Jeannette Littleton Brown
Ms. Tammy Rose

From: [Kate McHugh](#)
To: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: I support historic westwood -- RES. 2026-R024
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 7:59:47 PM

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I am a homeowner in Historic Westwood writing in support of Resolution 2026-R024.

As one of the newest homeowners there OF NEW DEVELOPMENT, I immediately recognize the uniqueness of the neighborhood - not just historically in events of the backbone of Richmond but even visibly with the diversity of architecture and ecologically with the mix of bird species (including once endangered bluebirds). I also recognize it wasn't set up well to even support my single home new build.

I have experienced issues from my land and house's development including erosion, an abandoned half broken chain linked fence portions left for me and the adjourning City of Richmond Westwood Park to deal with. This includes poison oak and ivy (and overgrown VA creeper) that was also left to be 'shared' with the park growth but I cannot address on my own property because of that chain link mess left.

In the just one year I have lived here (in new construction Q1 2025) I have already had my water pressure inexplicably and permanent decrease. I have had several city trucks and 1 school bus be unable to make the turn at my property's corner and have dislodged my sidewalk stones. These have required me to have a professional come out to reset them already once (after trying the other times myself.) We've also had a sink hole open a few weeks after 2 heavy cherry picker city trucks came out and parked for hours.

Please work with the residents already here to come to a commonly livable solution and design overlay.

Thank you, Councilmember Breton, for putting forth this resolution, and thanks to all for their support.

Kate McHugh

910 Parrish St

From: [Suzanne Keller](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Oppose Draft 3
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 9:11:08 AM

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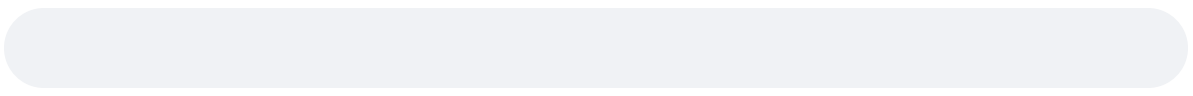
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"Please enter my comments into the public record for today's 3:00 PM meeting. I strongly support Resolution 2026-R024 and oppose Draft 3's by-right density loopholes.

By-right will cause unimaginable damage to relationships among neighbors, it will increase demolitions and will allow developers to harm neighborhood integrity and quality of life for residents.

Draft 3 violates the neighborhood preservation rules of Richmond 300 (Objective 4.1) and pushes unchecked density onto our aging utility infrastructure without a new capacity study. Please protect our neighborhoods and support community led planning.

Suzanne Keller
Bellevue



SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft Three Teardowns

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members,

I am a Richmond area resident writing to formally support Resolution 2026-R024 and demand community-driven planning for the Westwood neighborhood. Furthermore, I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. We demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns.

Sincerely,

Joan Oberle
Fan Resident

From: [Frank Domurat](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Code Refresh Stratford Hills resident.
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 1:18:36 PM

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I strongly oppose Code Refresh draft 3 “by right density loopholes”.

From: [Amy Bergmann](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Oppose Code Refresh
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 12:45:15 PM

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Dear City Clerk and Land Use Committee Members,

I am a Richmond city resident and I have been following Code Refresh closely. I am very sorry that I cannot attend today's 3:00 pm Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, but I hope you will consider my comments.

I am writing to say that I strictly oppose the by-right density loopholes currently proposed in Draft Three of the Code Refresh. The city's own RKG study confirms these zoning changes mathematically incentivize the demolition of existing, affordable housing for developer profit. This is absurd! City residents demand policies that protect our neighborhoods from displacement and teardowns, and we do not want zero say in what happens in our own neighborhoods.

For example, a plot of land was sold in the Forest Hill Park area over 20 years ago. Developers wanted to come in and put in some kind of assisted care center there, which would have paved every inch of soil on the property for the building and parking lot. This would absolutely have resulted in extreme flooding of the homes below the site, so the neighborhood fought the development and won. In the end, they put two homes on the lot, one of which I purchased (not knowing the history until after we settled in), and I can tell you even with two modest homes, there is still some flooding (there is a critical lack of storm drainage). I cannot even imagine how bad it would have been with so much more impervious surface.

On the land behind the homes, you can often find deer, salamanders, and other wildlife. I am glad that the neighborhood knew what would work and had a voice, which protected not only the other homes further down the street from extreme flooding, but also protected the wildlife. Now if Code Refresh is approved, my neighbors could put up another dwelling and ADU on the lot next to my house and I would have no say at all, and the flooding would be extreme. The wildlife would be pushed from yet another space until they have nowhere left to go.

The kinds of building going on already and so much more proposed will destroy this city, and it will happen fast what with the fact that the infrastructure cannot take the density proposed. From water issues (flooding, sewage spillovers, etc.) to traffic snarls (especially with all the bike lanes reducing travel lanes) and parking issues, it will be intolerable here. Please reconsider Code Refresh and eliminate the by-right density loopholes. Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Bergmann

From: [Copeland Casati](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 / OPPOSE Draft 3 Teardowns
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 12:23:53 PM

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Please enter my comments into the public record for today's 3:00 PM meeting. I strongly support Resolution 2026-R024 and oppose Draft 3's by-right density loopholes. Draft 3 violates the neighborhood preservation rules of Richmond 300 (Objective 4.1) and pushes unchecked density onto our aging utility infrastructure without a new capacity study. Please protect our neighborhoods and support community led planning.

Copeland Casati
President

Green Modern Kits / Green Cottage Kits / Green Cabin Kits
804.515.7886

Emily Fraher <emilymfraher@gmail.com>

Please SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024 and OPPOSE Draft 3 Tear-downs!

Good afternoon,

Please enter my comments into the public record for today's 3:00 PM meeting:

I strongly support Resolution 2026-R024 and oppose Draft 3's by-right density loopholes. Draft 3 violates the neighborhood preservation rules of Richmond 300 (Objective 4.1) and pushes unchecked density onto our aging utility infrastructure without a new capacity study. Please protect our neighborhoods and support community led planning!

My mother was born in this Manchester neighborhood in 1948, and now I am living in a 100 year old home on Bainbridge Street, slowly restoring and preserving it. We have 4 stories of apartments going up behind us at Hull and 15th, a 5-story building about to go up in front of us at Cowardin, yet no grocery store or pharmacy within walking distance. Our power goes out all the time, we are plagued by recent water issues in the city, old pipes in the basement, and our traffic control is a major problem. Our cars have been totaled while parked outside of our home TWICE. Our neighbors too. We just watched a car FLIP OVER in front of our home this past Friday night the 17th of July. We've seen horrendous accidents at bainbridge and Cowardin, and even nicknamed our street "Bainbridge Motor Speedway." Adding more cars without a capacity study is extremely irresponsible for our infrastructure and the residents already here.

Thank you for your time.
Emily Fraher

SUPPORT Resolution 2026-R024/OPPOSE Draft 3 Teardown

GARY WAYNICK <mgwaynick@verizon.net>

Please enter my comments into the public record for today's 3:00 PM meeting. I strongly support Resolution 2026-R024 and oppose Draft 3's by-right density loopholes. Draft 3 violates the neighborhood preservation rules of Richmond 300 (Objective 4.1) and pushes unchecked density onto our aging utility infrastructure without a new capacity study. Please protect our neighborhoods and support community led planning.

Gary Waynick

Sent from my iPhone

From: Taft Bradley
To: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); gradt.hart@rva.gov; [City Clerk's Office](#); Mayor@rva.gov
Subject: Formal Opposition to Westwood Code Changes & Request for Impact Study
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 2:40:32 PM

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Dear City of Richmond Officials,

I am writing to formally register my strong opposition to the recent code changes allowing additional property infringements within the Westwood community.

On a personal note, I grew up in Westwood for over 24 years, spent significant time serving in the U.S Air Force. This community, and specifically Westwood Baptist Church, has had a profound positive impact on my life. Westwood is a special place that still holds its original houses and unique culture-a neighborhood where resilience continues to thrive. It breaks my heart to see its foundational character put at risk by short-sighted planning.

Specifically, allowing secondary homes to be built in the rear of existing properties consuming practically every square foot of yard space could potentially cause overcrowding and push our local infrastructure to a dangerous breaking point. Our neighborhood utilities were engineered for single family layouts, not double occupancy lots. This hyper dense construction may have immediate, severe impacts across our community:

1. Utility strain; Forcing multiple households onto single-family utility lines drops local water pressure, risks sewer backups, and possibly overloads electrical transformers.
2. Storm water Runoff: Eliminating absorbent backyard soil and replacing it with concrete accelerates rainwater runoff, flooding our aging drainage system.
3. Parking & Safety; Eliminating private driveway space forces many occupants' vehicles onto narrow residential streets, completely overwhelming local parking and dangerously restricting access for emergency vehicles.

Before any further building permits are approved under these new codes, I respectfully request that the City Council Commission an independent infrastructure impact study. We must understand the full long-term toll this density takes on our water, power, sewer, and emergency services.

I urge the council to halt all back-lot construction approvals until this study is completed and foundational utilities are properly upgraded to protect our infrastructure and our historic community.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter

Sincerely,

Taft N. Bradley
5301 Stokes Lane, Richmond, VA 23226
919-274-3633

From: Denise Jeffries
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Historic Westwood
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 11:20:23 AM

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My mother was born in Historic Westwood in 1926 and grew up there with her parents, six brothers and one sister in a three-room house. My parents were married in Westwood Baptist Church in 1956.

I was born in Historic Westwood in 1957 and was married in Westwood Baptist Church in 1985.

Although I moved to another part of the country due to my husband's job, Westwood remains my home.

Richmond Virginia is a special place. The unique history of the Westwood community contributes to Richmond being unlike any other part of the United States.

I ask the city to work with the residents on an overlay to preserve Historic Westwood.

Thank you for serving the people of Richmond.

Denise Taylor Jeffries
daughter of Lerlean White Taylor

From: ANGELS SIMON
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Preserve Westwood neighborhood
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 6:01:08 PM

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Dear City Council members,

I am a resident of the Glenburnie neighborhood, located directly across Patterson Avenue from Westwood.

I frequently walk through Westwood, drawn by its tranquility and safe, peaceful atmosphere. It is a neighborhood defined by a distinctive character and charm that is increasingly rare and deeply worth protecting in our city.

What makes Westwood unique is its profound history and the resilient, tight-knit community forged by its residents. I have come to know and respect its incredible history and brave community.

Westwood stands as a secure, welcoming haven not just for those who live there, but for all of us in the surrounding areas who recognize it as an irreplaceable piece of our shared heritage.

Please support this resolution and help preserve the historic and cultural foundation of Westwood.

Sincerely,

Angels Simon

5409 Ditchley Rd., 23226 Richmond VA.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Joy Harper
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Westwood community
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026 11:58:43 AM

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Hello, my name is Joyce Harper.

My family of 7 children grew up in Westwood. My sister who passed in 2024 lived there until her passing.

We as a family continue to attend the church and attend neighbor activities. We love this community and I pray you will pass the resolution as proposed.

Thank you

From: Warren Atkins
To: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); Mayor@rva.gov; [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Historic Westwood Resolution
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 6:45:29 PM

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Dear Members of the Richmond City Council,

My name is Warren Atkins, and I live in Historic Westwood, a neighborhood where I grew up and have been a proud resident for over 60 years. I am writing to strongly urge the city to vote in support of the upcoming resolution to work with residents on establishing a neighborhood preservation overlay.

I live at 5316 Marian Street, directly adjacent to 5314 Marian Street, where an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) was recently constructed in the backyard. This development has severely disrupted my home and quality of life.

Throughout the construction process, my property has been subjected to scattered trash and debris. Furthermore, a portable toilet was placed directly in the front yard, creating both a terrible odor and a persistent eyesore for the neighborhood.

Beyond these aesthetic disturbances, the construction has caused severe infrastructure issues. My home's water pressure has decreased significantly. The city has dispatched crews on at least three separate occasions to upgrade the water meter pipes to accommodate this new construction. According to the city's own technicians, these pipes were installed incorrectly three times. This negligence resulted in construction debris being routed directly into my water heater tank, forcing me to replace the entire unit prematurely at my own expense.

Developments with such severe infrastructure and environmental impacts should never be approved without direct input from the community members who must live with the consequences. As a historic community, we deserve a voice and a vote on regulations and zoning changes that fundamentally alter our neighborhood.

I have attached photos and a video to document these ongoing issues. Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued service to the people of Richmond.

Sincerely,

Warren Atkins

5316 Marian St, Richmond, VA

<https://nextdoor.com/p/SyLhgGhzPWgQ?utm_source=share&extras=MTk1MDcyMzgy&utm_campaign=1783980031610&share_action_id=b2d88111-bbda-4712-b8eb-764855448373>

Warren Atkins, a resident of Historic Westwood a neighborhood built by formerly enslaved Virginians after the Civil War and a Civil Rights battleground since annexed by the City in 1942.

<https://nextdoor.com/p/SyLhgGhzPWgQ?utm_source=share&extras=MTk1MDcyMzgy&utm_campaign=1783980031610&share_action_id=b2d88111-bbda-4712-b8eb-764855448373>

nextdoor.com <https://nextdoor.com/p/SyLhgGhzPWgQ?utm_source=share&extras=MTk1MDcyMzgy&utm_campaign=1783980031610&share_action_id=b2d88111-bbda-4712-b8eb-764855448373>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Betsy McCray](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Supporting Resolution No. 2026-R024.
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:07:57 PM

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Dear Members of Richmond City Council,
I live on Greenway Lane in the 1st District, and am writing in support of Resolution No. 2026-R024.

It has come to my attention that the historic Westwood neighborhood remains some of the most affordable housing in the 1st District. As Richmond seeks to build and secure affordable housing, it make sense to protect this community. And as I have watched the Libbie/Grove/Patterson area continue to see rapid growth and development, the Westwood community, without protections, is vulnerable.

I am also aware that recent ADU's built in Westwood are out of scale with the homes in this neighborhood. It is unfortunate that this has occurred as ADU's, with thoughtful planning, have the potential to be beneficial to neighborhoods.

While I am not a resident of Westwood, they are my neighbors and my hope is that the city will consider their needs and listen to the residents that live there now.

Sincerely,
Betsy McCray
Greenway Lane, 1st District

From: [Kelly Johnson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: A Call to Stand with Westwood
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:03:23 AM

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Dear City Council:

I am writing to express my deep concerns about Westwood and ask you to support the resolution introduced by Councilman Andrew Breton. I encourage you to conduct the six month study of historic Westwood. As a proud member of the Westwood community and the daughter of Daisy Jane Cooper, I urge you to recognize the historical significance of our neighborhood and the importance of preserving its integrity. Westwood is not just a place; it embodies our shared history and the legacies of those who fought for equality and justice.

Westwood holds a special place in the heart of Richmond's history. It was the home of Elizabeth Cooper, my grandmother, who was instrumental in the fight to integrate Richmond public schools. Her resilience and dedication to education paved the way for countless children, including my mother, Daisy Jane, who integrated Westhampton Junior High just down the street. This legacy of courage and determination is something we must honor and protect for future generations.

Westwood Community has a unique character, and by making changes without knowing history (which includes the history of lack of infrastructure or poor infrastructure), this paves the way for developments that do not align with our community's values. I believe we should focus on enhancing and preserving what makes Westwood special. By working together, we can find solutions that honor our past while ensuring sustainable growth for the future.

As we reflect on our history, it is crucial to remember the lessons learned from those who came before us. The fight for civil rights and educational equality is not just a chapter in our past; it is a story that continues to resonate today. I implore the city to stand with us, to recognize the importance of our community, and to support a resolution that prioritizes collaboration with the Westwood community.

As a direct descendant of those who fought for justice and equality, I feel a profound responsibility to advocate for Westwood. Our neighborhood is steeped

in history, and we owe it to our ancestors, and to future generations, to protect its legacy. I ask you to consider the impact of your decisions on families like mine who hold Westwood dear to their hearts.

In closing, I urge you to stand with Westwood and support a resolution that will foster collaboration with our community. By doing so, you will not only honor our past but also ensure that Westwood remains a vibrant and historic part of Richmond for years to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

Kelly Johnson
Daughter of Daisy Jane Cooper
Granddaughter of Elizabeth B. Cooper

Bonita Waller Prentis
5004 Sandpiper Drive
Richmond, VA 23227
Bprentis2@comcast.net

July 24, 2026

Office of the City Clerk
City of Richmond
900 E. Broad Street, Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23219

Subject: Support of Resolution for Westwood Community

Dear Madam City Clerk,

I'm writing to ask for your support in preserving my historical neighborhood. I feel ADUs will disrupt the southern single family charm. This community was established over 150 years ago from former slaves. Over the years the families continue to teach our children the uniqueness and history of this community.

I am a former resident of the Westwood Community. However, my family still resides in the neighborhood. I have been a member of Westwood Baptist Church for over 50 years. The legacy of preserving and protecting this community is still strong today.

Building multi-family residence is not feasible for this community for several reasons. It will destroy the historical landmark and charm known in this neighborhood. It will overpower the infrastructure that was designed for a small number of single family homes. It will take away from family outdoor gatherings by taking away yard space. It can negatively impact the elderly in this community financially.

Preserving this community by maintaining the historical value and cultural aspects are essential. It makes sense to prevent ADU's and multi-family residences from building in this community. The history of this community should be maintained and not subjected to redesign.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bonita Prentis

From: [Reggie Littleton](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Dear Richmond City Council,
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:02:12 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I am writing to express my unwavering support for the Resolution for Historic Westwood.

My name is Reginald Littleton, and I am a proud resident of Richmond. I was born and raised in this city and moved from the West End to Historic Westwood at the age of seven. I completed my education in Richmond Public Schools, where I had the privilege of attending Westhampton Elementary School, thanks to the tireless efforts of our neighbor, Daisy Jane Cooper, in her historic case to integrate the Richmond Public Schools System.

After a successful career as an IT manager at Capital One, I was able to achieve a childhood dream. I transitioned into the restaurant industry and have been the proud owner of Family Secrets Restaurant for over 25 years.

Growing up in Westwood was an incredibly positive experience. The Church and Playground served as vital community hubs, fostering a strong sense of neighborly support and Christian love. We were not merely taught to love our neighbors as Christ loves us (John 13:34-35); we actively practiced these values. The values I acquired during my upbringing, instilled by my family, church, and community, continue to guide my life today.

Historic Westwood had a profound and lasting impact on my life and the lives of countless individuals. It was and is a community that provided a nurturing environment for growth and development, leaving an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to be a part of it.

Passing this Resolution will save Historic Westwood from being destroyed by developers and erase such a rich and vital history, not only of this city and state but also of this country.

Respectfully Submitted,
Reginald "Reggie" Littleton, owner
Family Secrets Restaurant

Sent from my iPhone

From: revjlb@icloud.com
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: Preserving the Character, Culture, and Legacy of Westwood
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:45:48 AM

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Good morning:

Please accept this letter from our Pastor Michael R. Lomax who is away on vacation.

Thank you,
Reverend Jeanette Brown
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael Lomax <michael.r.lomax@icloud.com>
Date: July 21, 2026 at 9:20:52 AM EDT
To: jbrown2009@comcast.net, Jeanette Brown <revjlb@icloud.com>
Subject: Preserving the Character, Culture, and Legacy of Westwood

I cannot attend due to work obligations, but I wanted to submit this letter.

Dear Members of the Land Use Committee,

I have had the privilege of serving as Pastor of Westwood Baptist Church for the past ten years. During that time, I have witnessed firsthand that the strength and sustainability of Westwood is not simply found in its buildings or parcels of land, but in the people, history, relationships, and culture that make this community unique.

The current discussion surrounding the Code Refresh initiative may appear to be a conversation about land use and development opportunities. However, for those of us who call Westwood home, it represents something much deeper. The homes that line our streets are more than structures. They represent generations of families who pursued the American dream, built lasting relationships, and created a community that has enriched Richmond for more than 160 years.

Westwood's legacy extends far beyond its boundaries. This community helped shape leaders and trailblazers whose contributions have impacted our city and nation, including Arthur Ashe, Senator Benjamin Lambert, Judge Leonard Lambert—the first Black judge in Richmond—and countless others. Their stories are woven into the fabric of this neighborhood and remind us that communities like Westwood are not easily recreated once they are altered or lost.

Community is more than housing density or development potential. It is the culture that allows neighbors to know one another, children to play safely, seniors to age with dignity, and residents to gather around shared institutions such as Westwood Baptist Church and Westwood Park. The scale and character of our neighborhood foster a sense of connection that cannot be measured solely by development metrics.

We welcome investment and improvement. We support efforts to strengthen infrastructure, including roads, water systems, sewer capacity, and other public services that enhance quality of life. However, improvements to infrastructure should not come at the expense of the character, culture, and identity that define Westwood. As communities become increasingly commercialized and densely developed, the communal spaces and relationships that make neighborhoods thrive are often diminished.

Westwood's inclusion on an endangered preservation list reflects the reality that communities with this level of historic and cultural significance are increasingly rare. Across the country, similar neighborhoods have disappeared through broad rezoning efforts and development initiatives that failed to account for the value of community identity and heritage.

For these reasons, I strongly support Councilman Breton's efforts and respectfully urge the committee to honor the proposed six-month study of Westwood. This study represents a thoughtful and measured approach that allows residents, stakeholders, and city leaders to work together to identify strategies for preserving the neighborhood's unique character, history, and identity.

It is important to note that the proposed resolution is not a binding agreement that grants a neighborhood overlay, nor does it prohibit future development. Rather, it simply commits the City to studying the neighborhood and developing recommendations in partnership with the community. Such a process is both reasonable and responsible given the significance of what is at stake.

I respectfully ask that every available protection be considered to preserve the culture, character, connection, and community that generations of residents have built and sustained. Development and preservation need not be opposing goals. With thoughtful planning, Richmond can continue to grow while honoring the historic communities that have helped make our city what it is today.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to engaging the Westwood community in this important conversation.

Sincerely,

Pastor Michael R. Lomax
Westwood Baptist Church

Michael R. Lomax, MBA, CFP®
mobile 615.457.0577

From: [E Wright](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); [Richmond300](#); [Mayor Danny Avula](#)
Subject: In support of Resolution No. 2026-R024
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:51:04 AM

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Dear Members of City Council--

I write in support of Resolution 2026-R024 in advance of tonight's City Council meeting.

Historic Westwood, as you know, is unique in its founding, its history and perseverance as a community. Over the decades, Westwood regrettably has endured unfair City policies and brazen efforts to seize its very land.

With this Resolution, drafted by our First District Council Member Andrew Breton, Westwood will receive a much-deserved planning review to shape its future, thoughtfully and respectfully.

We must protect and preserve Westwood-- and other historic black neighborhoods in Richmond-- from aggressive commercial development and a complete disregard for its cultural identity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Elise Wright
First District
Richmond VA

From: [Amy Atticks](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); [Mayor Danny Avula](#); [Jeanette Brown](#); [Frances Dunston](#); [S. Thornton](#); trosegwhs@yahoo.com
Subject: Westwood Resolution 2026-R024
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:03:06 AM

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Dear Mayor Avula and honorable members of the City Council,
Since purchasing my home in Westwood last year, I have learned that Westwood meets the criteria for significance under the National Register of Historic Places:

- Westwood Village was founded by a community of formerly enslaved people.
- Westwood was the site of Civil Rights–era activity.
- Westwood was built by and remains home to generations of Black Virginians who have contributed to Richmond’s civic, educational, and cultural life.
- Westwood remains a rare, remarkably intact Reconstruction-era neighborhood.

Westwood also meets cultural-preservation considerations identified by the NRHP and aligns with UNESCO’s concepts of intangible cultural heritage:

- Westwood is living cultural heritage — a gathering place for an intergenerational community that extends beyond its physical boundaries.
- Westwood has retained significant spatial cultural heritage: its human scale, small buildings, and narrow, walkable lanes preserve a village atmosphere and foster daily neighborly connections.

Still, Westwood has no formal protections and continues to be eroded by insensitive development. The community has lost homes to mixed-use buildings on three streets, and residents are weary after years of defending the neighborhood against invasive special use permits.

Recent changes that enable by-right development have reduced opportunities for community review. This spring, Cava erected [towering ADUs on back-to-back lots](#) — too close to homes and to each other, and out of scale with the neighborhood. They crowd out backyards, reduce airflow and daylight, threaten safe egress, and break the continuity of open space that supports Westwood’s historic pattern of connectedness. They also shift opportunities for intergenerational community wealth toward speculative developers seeking to maximize profit.

Code Refresh analysis now identifies Westwood as particularly vulnerable to further redevelopment and erasure. This resolution will not by itself provide urgent guardrails, but it is an important first step. I am incredibly grateful to Councilmembers Breton, Jones, and Robertson for their leadership as patrons of the resolution.

I ask the rest of Council to vote yes for Resolution 2026-R024. We may not yet have every tool needed to protect a place like Westwood, but preserving this historic community and neighborhood can be a model for responsible stewardship and

innovative preservation for the City of Richmond, the Commonwealth, and the nation.

Thank you.

With gratitude,

Amy Atticks

From: [Tammy Rose](#)
To: [Mayor Danny Avula](#); [Wijesooriya, Lawson - Mayor's Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Jones, Nicole - City Council Office](#); [kenya.gibson@rva.org](#); [sarah.abubaker@rva.org](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Jordan, Katherine - City Council](#)
Cc: [Hart, Grady W. - CNL](#); [trosegwhs@yahoo.com](#); [Jeanette Brown](#); [Bryant Fields](#)
Subject: I support the Resolution for the Westwood Community
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:53:17 AM
Attachments: [Bryantltr to cityofRich2026.docx](#)

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Good morning,

On behalf of my brother, Bryant Fields, I am sending you his support letter for the Resolution 2026 R024. He is on the road (he's a truck driver) and unable to submit this on his own right now.

Thank you,

Tammy Rose
[trosegwhs@yahoo.com](#)